

Dear praying friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers for us here in Poland.

We had a good Sunday service today in spite of the fact that we previously had thought attendance would be very low. We had a couple of visitors which helped boost attendance a bit. In Poland, Easter traditions collide with Sunday morning service at our church as they normally have a family get-together (breakfast) with rye bread, eggs, sausage, etc. that has all been “sprinkled” by the priest on Saturday. This will give them extra blessings through the next year (I guess that is what they think). The Easter breakfast is pretty big to them—about like our Thanksgiving dinner.

**A couple of prayer requests:**

1. Edyta, a lady who started coming last August most of the time, has a husband named Grzegorz (Greg) and he is going to leave on the 15th to go to the UK to work. This is serious to her as she is sure he will fall in with the wrong crowd and drink away his earnings. Please pray for this situation and both of them. None of the family are believers, as we understand the term. She is a sensitive type of person and doesn't want him to go as it leaves her with the work of keeping the family together and all the shopping duties, etc. (He is the one with the driver's license, for example.)

2. Asia, my friend who has anxiety issues and is not a believer though she has attended off and on for a while now, is in a psychiatric hospital where she hopes to stay till it is warm. She went in on Feb. 1 and can only stay there three months. After three months they will move her to a rehab type place. Please pray that the Lord will work in her heart and that she will work at getting better. She seems quite accepting of her state of “doing nothing”. At the moment, the gov't is paying for her room and board but that can't keep up. She has a son who is in early 30s but he gets tired of dealing with her issues.

3. Monika Z. from a town about a half hour away was able to come to church today, so that was a blessing for her (I hope) and for us. She used to be a nun, before she left that and got married. She now has 2 children and a husband whose work history has been spotty as of late. Please keep praying for her whole family. She says it is really, really hard to be where she is as she feels all alone in her beliefs. She has rejected Catholicism and her mom and sister are sure she is on a straight road to hell. (They are devout Catholics.)

**Cultural note:**

This morning as I was teaching Sunday school, I mentioned that the first day of the week was actually Sunday, and not Monday, my student who understood me (11 years old—the almost 5 year old wasn't following me), gave me a look that told me, “Come on, you're kidding, right?” This is a difficult concept here in Poland as all European calendars, I've been told, have Monday as the first day of the week and Sunday as the last. I am not sure I got through to her that Sunday is actually the FIRST day of the week and that is why we meet on Sundays. I think most Poles think that Sunday is the seventh day and the biblical Sabbath as in the Old Testament. Anyway, the idea of the Sabbath was too heavy for both her and for my Polish, so I refrained from going there.

So, that's my cultural note: On calendars in Poland, they always start with Mondays and end with Sundays.

Thanks for praying for us,

Becky Petersen for the Petersens in Poland